MARVEL
1
WHAT IF?
PETER PARKER BECAME
THE PUNISHER
POTTS
RAMÍREZ
ROSENBERG
PARENTAL ADVISORY

"WITH GREAT POWER, THERE MUST ALSO COME--GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!"

WHEN PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, GRANTING HIM THE POWERS THAT HE WOULD USE AS THE *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN*, PETER NEGLECTED TO HEED THIS ADAGE, RESULTING IN PERSONAL TRAGEDY. FROM THAT POINT ON, HE VOWED TO NEVER USE HIS POWERS IRRESPONSIBLY.

BUT WHAT IF A TWIST OF FATE SHOWED PETER *A DIFFERENT WAY* TO LOOK AT RESPONSIBILITY?

WHAT IF HE SAW ANOTHER METHOD TO PROTECT HIS LOVED ONES?

WHAT IF...

PETER PARKER BECAME THE PUNISHER?

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SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKEY J. BASSO

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ORDINARILY, THE BITE OF *STEATODA NOBILIS*, THE "FALSE WIDOW," RESULTS IN LOCAL IRRITATION.

ADD A HUGE DOSE OF RADIATION, A POOR, ORPHANED HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE NERD...

...AND THE "IRRITATION" EXPANDS EXPONENTIALLY WITH ***UNPREDICTABLE RAMIFICATIONS.***

THE EFFECTS LAST A LIFETIME.

SOME LIFETIMES ARE LONGER THAN OTHERS.

WHAT IF PETER PARKER BECAME THE PUNISHER?

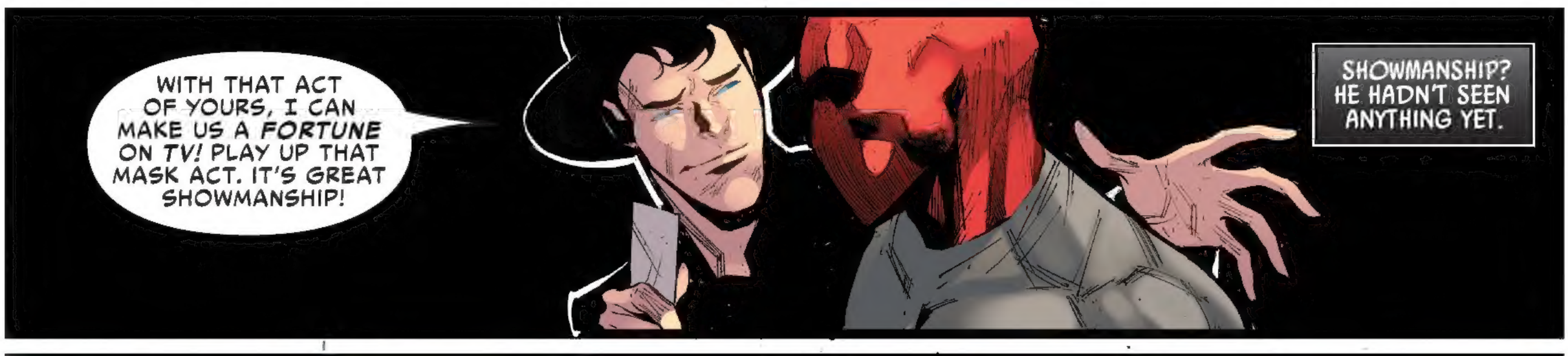
SOON AFTER THE BITE'S EFFECTS MANIFESTED, OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED THEMSELVES.

$100 to the man who can stay in the ring 3 MINUTES with CRUSHER HOGAN!

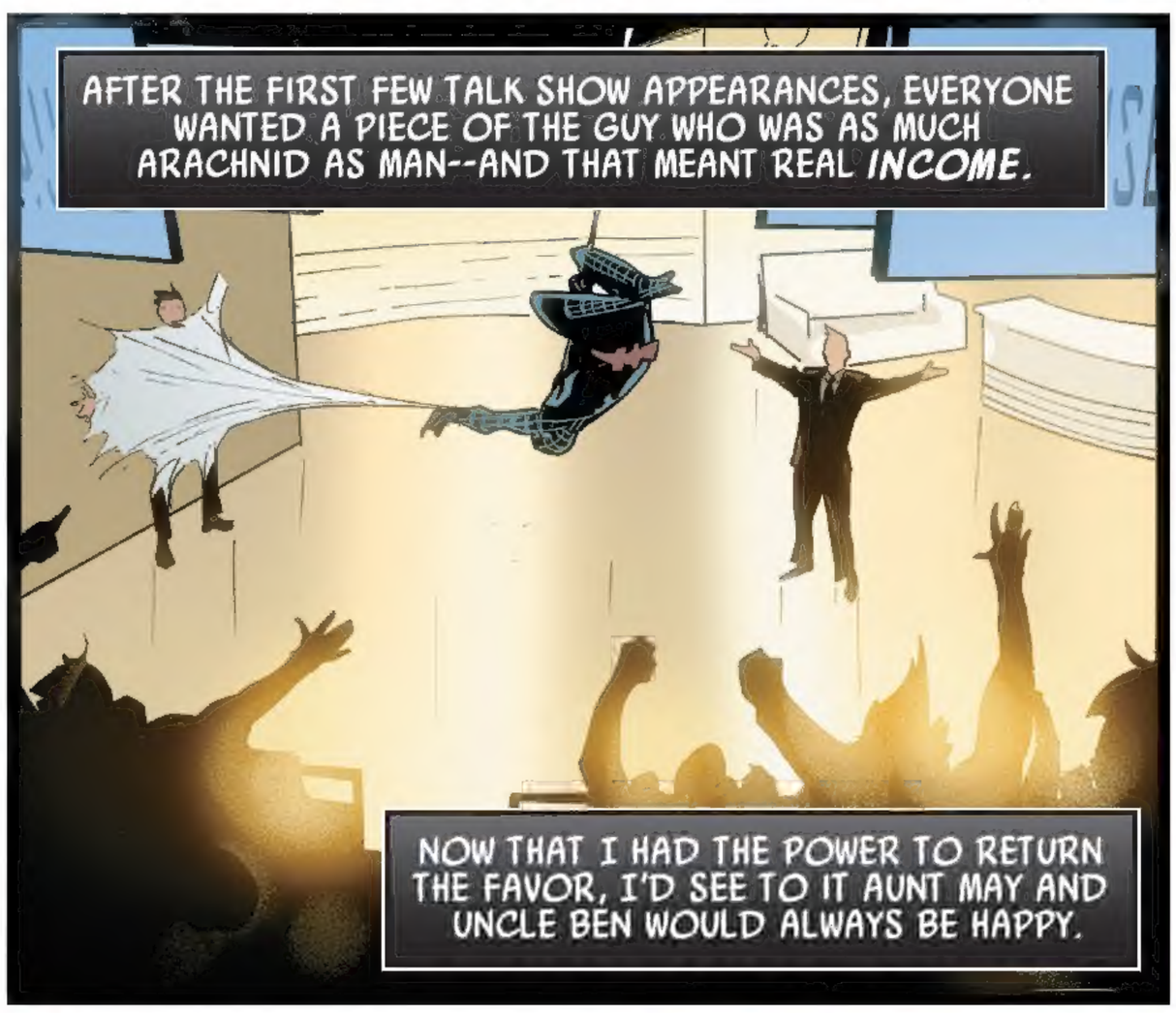
OPPORTUNITIES TO TURN MY LIFE AROUND.

CARL POTTS • JUANAN RAMÍREZ
RACHELLE ROSENBERG • VC's TRAVIS LANHAM

Dedicated to the memory of the late, great STEVE DITKO.


WITH THAT ACT OF YOURS, I CAN MAKE US A *FORTUNE* ON *TV!* PLAY UP THAT MASK ACT. IT'S GREAT SHOWMANSHIP!
SHOWMANSHIP? HE HADN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET.

I DESIGNED A COSTUME AND WEB-SHOOTERS REFLECTING WHAT I'D ABSORBED FROM THAT SPIDER.
PETER?
OH, HI, AUNT MAY, UNCLE BEN!
YOU LOOKED A LITTLE TIRED, PETER, SO WE BROUGHT YOU SOME CRACKERS AND MILK.
BEN AND MAY WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD EVER BEEN KIND TO ME. MONEY WAS ALWAYS TIGHT, BUT THEY STRETCHED TO KEEP ME IN SCIENCE BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT.


AFTER THE FIRST FEW TALK SHOW APPEARANCES, EVERYONE WANTED A PIECE OF THE GUY WHO WAS AS MUCH ARACHNID AS MAN--AND THAT MEANT REAL *INCOME.*
NOW THAT I HAD THE POWER TO RETURN THE FAVOR, I'D SEE TO IT AUNT MAY AND UNCLE BEN WOULD ALWAYS BE HAPPY.

THE REST OF THE WORLD COULD GO HANG.
STOP! THIEF! DON'T LET HIM GET TO THE ELEVATOR!
SORRY, PAL...THAT'S *YOUR* JOB!

PETER PARKER? SORRY TO HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR UNCLE WAS SHOT, *KILLED* BY A BURGLAR HE SURPRISED IN THE HOUSE.
AND LIKE *THAT,* MY WORLD CAME CRASHING DOWN.

INSTEAD OF COMFORTING MY AUNT, I RUSHED TO THE OLD WAREHOUSE WHERE THE POLICE HAD THE KILLER SURROUNDED.
BUGLE

AND THAT MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
WAS THAT REALLY THAT SPIDER-MAN GUY FROM TV?

GOTTA HOLD 'EM OFF UNTIL THE MOON GOES DOWN. THEN I OUGHTA BE ABLE TO SLIP AWAY IN THE DARK.

WHAT THE--?!

THWIP
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE SPIDER-SENSE KICKED IN...

...WARNING ME OF IMMINENT DANGER.
BANG
YOU!
THE MAN I'D LET ESCAPE BACKSTAGE.
IF I CAN JUST GET CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A PIC, THIS'LL BE FRONT-PAGE MATERIAL!
WHAM WHACK
ALL MY FAULT. I HAD THE POWER TO PREVENT BEN'S MURDER AND COULDN'T BE BOTHERED.
WHAT THE HELL ARE--
--YOU...
PAK
NEVER AGAIN.

CRASH
HEEELLLPPP!
THWIP
FWSH

UNCLE BEN ALWAYS SAID THAT WITH GREAT POWER, THERE MUST COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

SO WHEN J. JONAH JAMESON WARPED REALITY TO SELL NEWSPAPERS, I DIDN'T CARE.

DAILY BUGLE

EXTRA

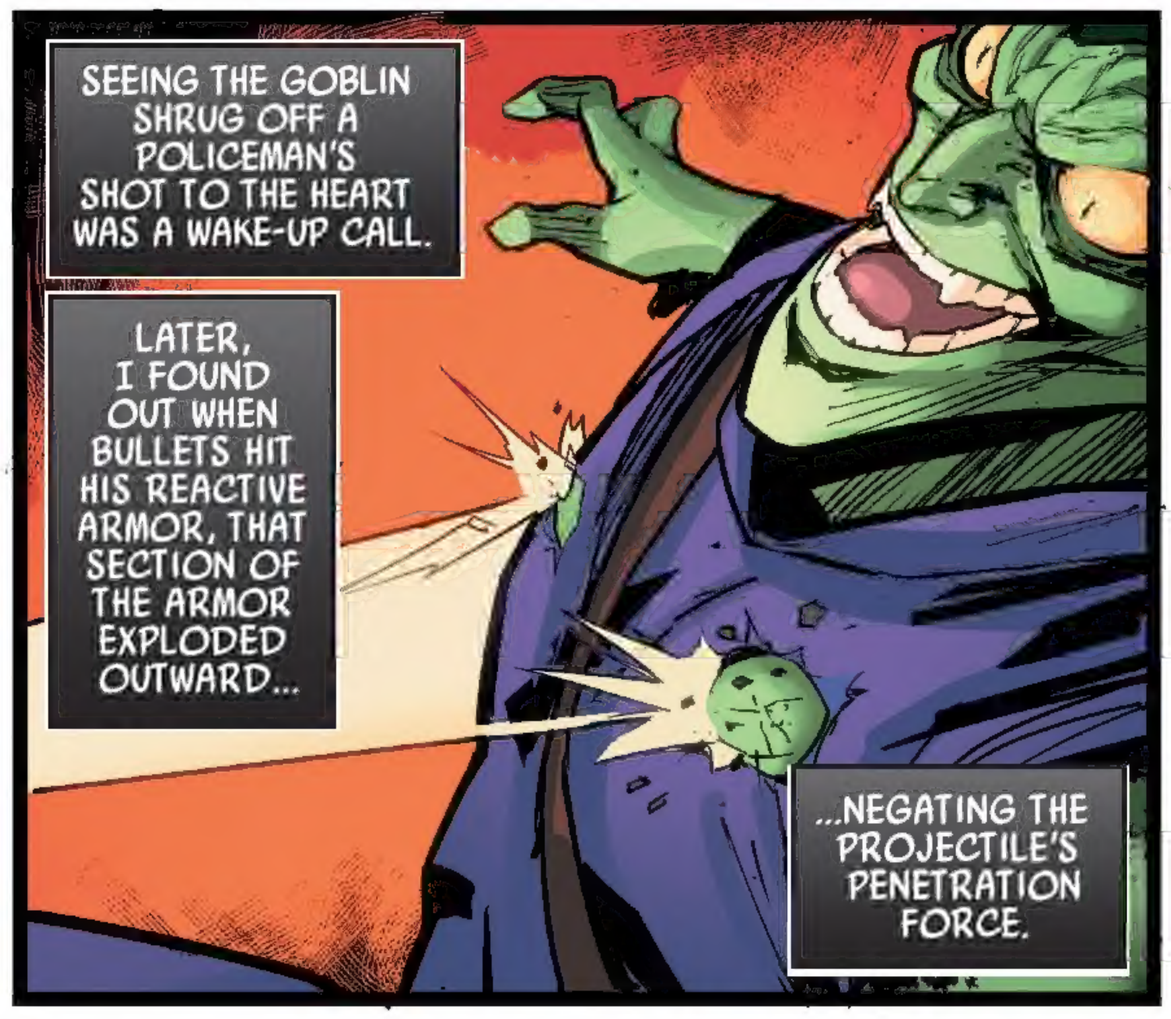
THE PUNISHING SPIDER TERRORIZES CITY!

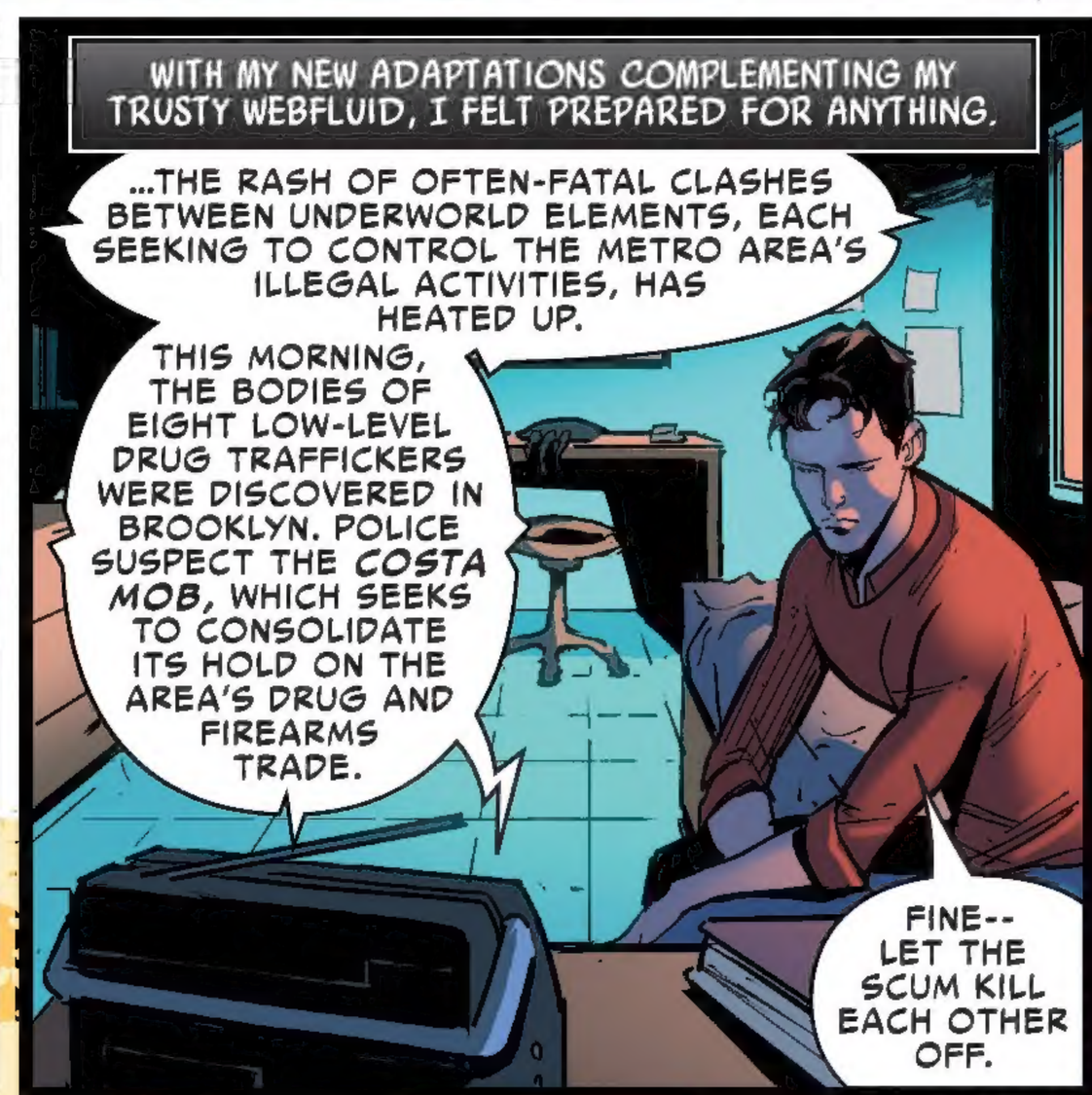
Bugle reporter nearly killed as masked vigilante murders burglary suspect police had contained in warehouse.

Editorial by J. Jonah Jameson on page 3.

Photo: Ned Leeds

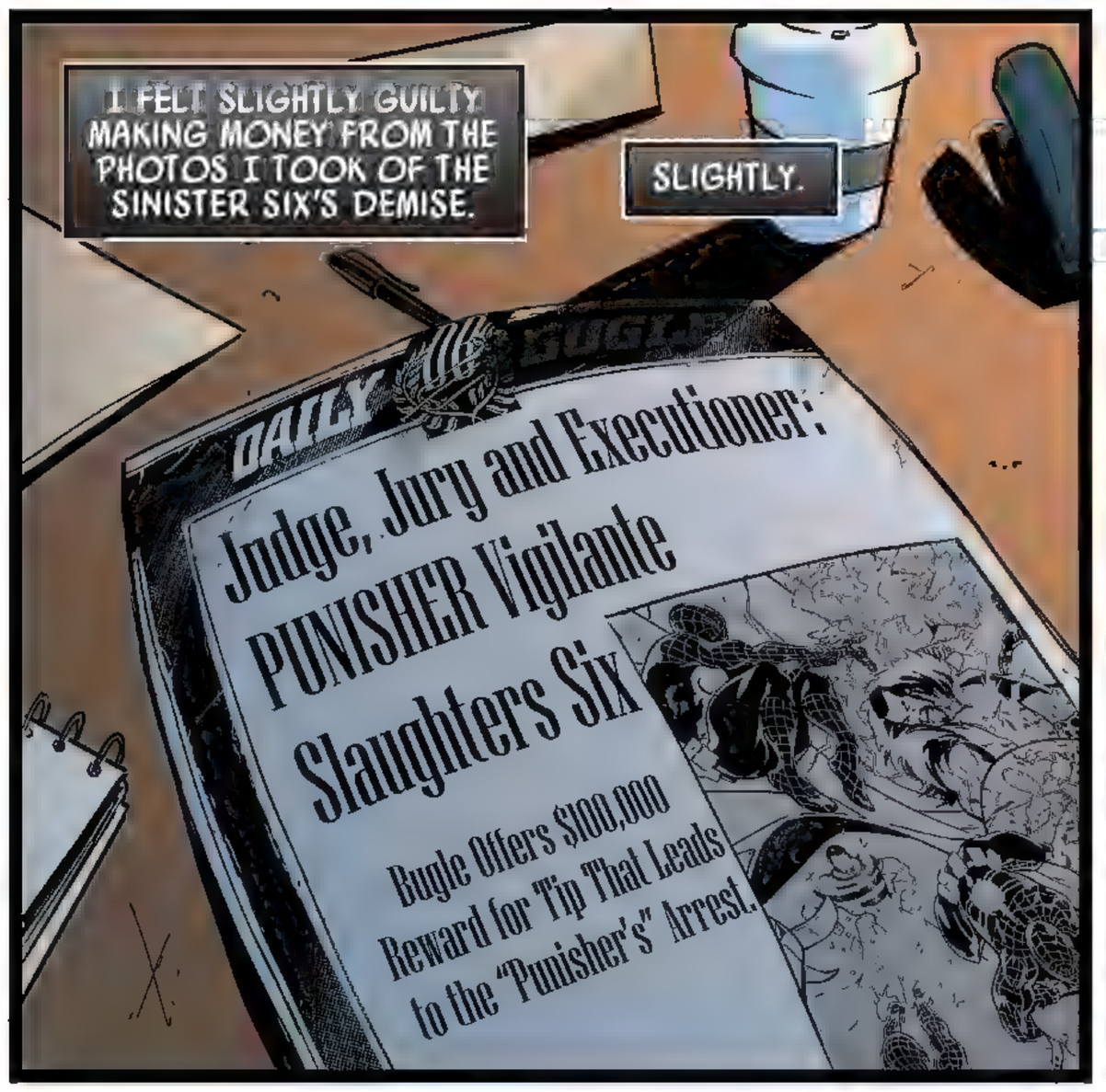
BY RIGGING A REMOTE-CONTROLLED CAMERA BEFORE I POUNCED ON A VILLAIN, I WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE EXTRAORDINARY SHOTS OF MY ALTER EGO IN ACTION.
THOUGH THE BUGLE'S EDITORIALS CARRIED J. JONAH JAMESON'S BIAS, HE PAID BETTER FOR MY PHOTOS THAN ANY OTHER NEWSPAPER.
PHENOMENAL SHOTS, PARKER! BE CAREFUL THIS PUNISHER SPIDER-PSYCHO DOESN'T SPOT YOU AND VENTILATE YOU WITH THAT GUN!
SO FAR I'D MANAGED TO APPREHEND OR CHASE OFF MY ANTAGONISTS WITHOUT NEEDING TO USE THE GUN I TOOK FROM UNCLE BEN'S KILLER.
DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-PUNISHER'S BATTLE CAUSES $500K PROPERTY DAMAGE!
BUT SUPER-POWERED ROGUES KEPT COMING BACK TO SEEK REVENGE FOR PAST DEFEATS.
WITH EACH ENCOUNTER, THESE VILLAINS BECAME MORE VICIOUS AND DANGEROUS.
KA-POW
THE GREEN GOBLIN WAS THE MOST PERSISTENT.





THE FIRST TEST OF MY NEW WEAPONRY WAS AGAINST THE "SINISTER SIX" CONFEDERATION OF OLD FOES WHO THREATENED EXACTLY THE *WRONG PEOPLE--MY* LOVED ONES.

MY EMP ROUNDS FRIED ELECTRO.
THERE WAS NO MESSING AROUND WITH KRAVEN--EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS FOR THE MAD RUSSIAN.
AFTER AN EXHAUSTING BOUT WITH MYSTERIO'S ROBOT X-MEN, THE COUP DE GRACE WAS DELIVERED UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.
INCENDIARY ROUNDS TURNED SAND, AND SANDMAN, TO GLASS FOR EASY SHATTERING.
WITHOUT THEIR POWER SOURCE, VULTURE'S WINGS BECAME USELESS DECORATIONS.
FOR THE "BRILLIANT" DOCTOR OCTOPUS WHO MASTERMINDED THIS SCHEME, MY ARMOR-PIERCING ROUNDS TURNED HIS MECHANICAL ARMS TO SHRAPNEL.
THE FEAR OF "THE PUNISHER" IN MY AUNT'S EYES MADE IT CLEAR I COULD NEVER REVEAL MY IDENTITY TO THOSE I CARE ABOUT.

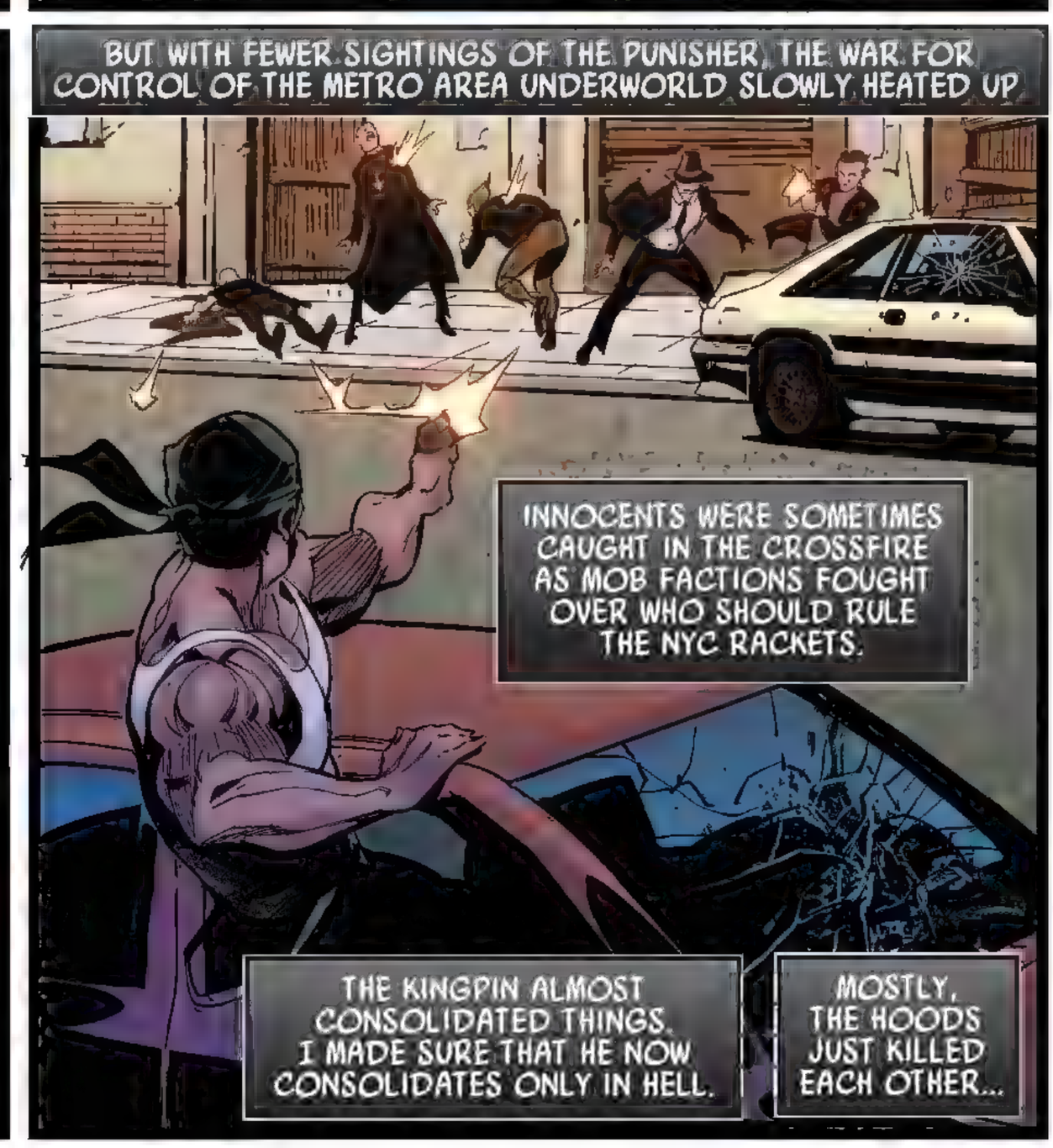

I FELT SLIGHTLY GUILTY MAKING MONEY FROM THE PHOTOS I TOOK OF THE SINISTER SIX'S DEMISE.
SLIGHTLY.
DAILY BUGLE
Judge, Jury and Executioner: PUNISHER Vigilante Slaughters Six
Bugle Offers $100,000 Reward for Tip That Leads to the "Punisher's" Arrest.

FOR A WHILE, CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN NYC NOSE-DIVED. WHEN THE BAD DREAMS DIMINISHED, I MOVED ON WITH MY LIFE.

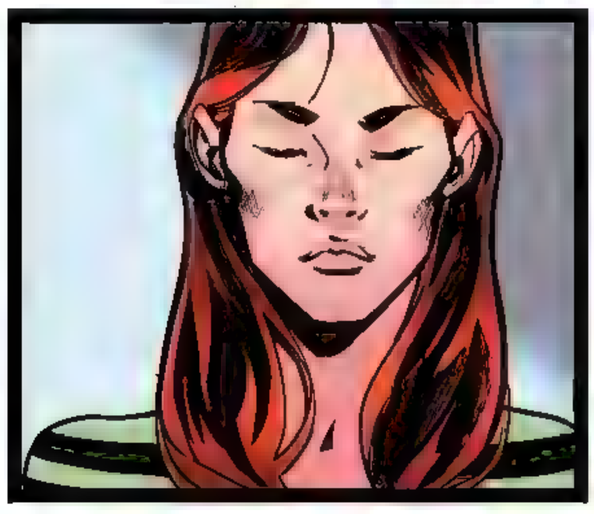
I'M HARRY OSBORN, YOUR NEW ROOMMATE. WELCOME TO EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, PARKER!

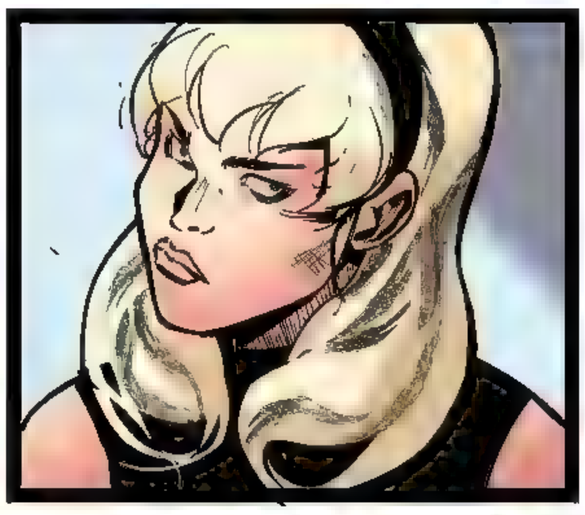
IN MY FIRST CLASS I LEARNED ABOUT THE DYNAMICS OF BIOLOGICAL ATTRACTION.

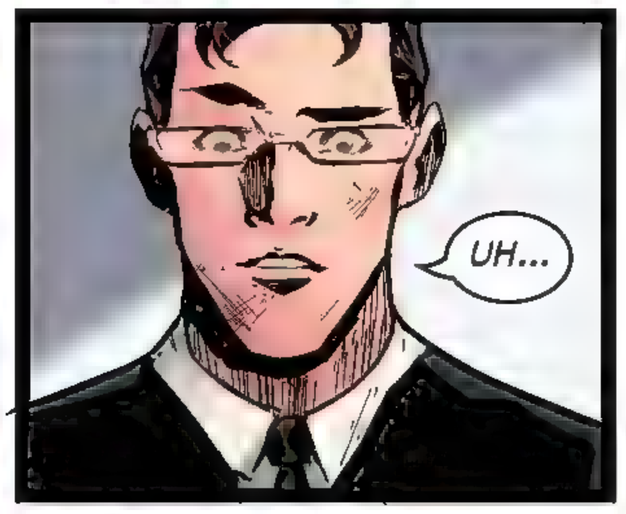
THE "LIFE BALANCE" SHIFTED AWAY FROM CRIMEFIGHTER TO COLLEGE STUDENT-- A SMITTEN COLLEGE STUDENT.


BUT WITH FEWER SIGHTINGS OF THE PUNISHER, THE WAR FOR CONTROL OF THE METRO AREA UNDERWORLD SLOWLY HEATED UP.
INNOCENTS WERE SOMETIMES CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE AS MOB FACTIONS FOUGHT OVER WHO SHOULD RULE THE NYC RACKETS.
THE KINGPIN ALMOST CONSOLIDATED THINGS. I MADE SURE THAT HE NOW CONSOLIDATES ONLY IN HELL.
MOSTLY, THE HOODS JUST KILLED EACH OTHER...

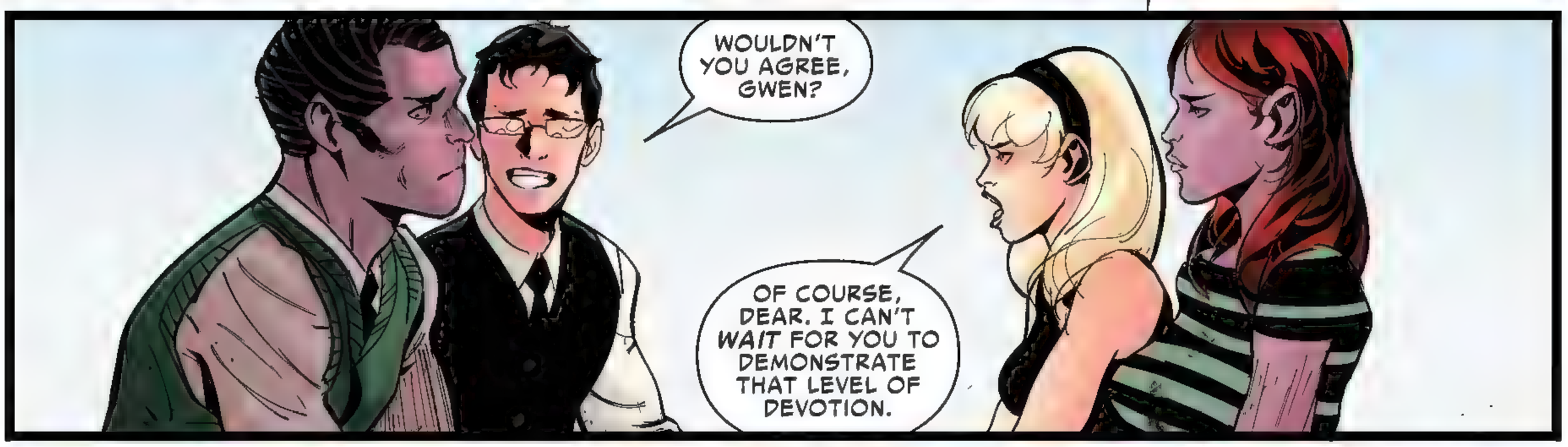
...AND THAT WAS FINE BY ME.
MARY JANE AND I HAD A GREAT TIME WHEN WE WERE HERE LAST.
MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO, RIGHT, MJ? YOU HAD THE...
I'VE. NEVER. BEEN. HERE. BEFORE. IN. MY. LIFE.
YOU MUST BE DREAMING OF SOMEONE ELSE, MISTER OSBORN.






UH...

GEEZ, HARRY'S SO ENAMORED WITH MJ THAT HE'S SUPPLANTED MEMORIES OF HIS PREVIOUS GIRLFRIENDS WITH HER.
THAT'S ABOUT THE MOST ROMANTIC THING I'VE EVER HEARD OF!


WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, GWEN?
OF COURSE, DEAR. I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO DEMONSTRATE THAT LEVEL OF DEVOTION.

PETER PARKER, DON'T YOU EVER TRY TO PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES LIKE YOU DID ON MJ IN THERE!

WOULDN'T THINK OF IT, GWEN.
DAILY BUGLE
CRIME RATES DECLINE ALONG WITH SIGHTINGS OF THE PUNISHER - COINCIDENCE?
DAILY BUGLE
CRIME RATES DECLINE ALONG WITH SIGHTINGS OF THE PUNISHER - COINCIDENCE?
DAILY BUGLE

THE GREEN GOBLIN REMAINED THE DEADLIEST AND MOST RESILIENT OF MY FOES.

NULLIFYING MY SPIDER-SENSE WITH A DRUG, HE FOLLOWED ME, LEARNED MY IDENTITY, ATTACKED AND BOUND ME WITH MORE OSCORP TECH. I WAS HELPLESS.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN LESS SURPRISED WHEN THE GOBLIN TURNED OUT TO BE *NORMAN OSBORN*, HEAD OF OSCORP--AND FATHER TO MY ROOMMATE, HARRY.

THE *ONLY* WAY YOU COULD *FINALLY* BEAT ME, OSBORN, WAS BY DRUGGING AND BINDING ME.

I *ALWAYS* WON OUR BATTLES! *OTHERS* INTERFERED TO *LET* YOU ESCAPE!

I'M PREPARED TO *PROVE* IT!

GO AHEAD, SUIT UP--MINUS YOUR FIREPOWER.

I USED FIREPOWER OF A DIFFERENT SORT.

HARRY? NO, YOU'RE *NOT* MY SON. WHO ARE YOU?

I COULDN'T KILL HARRY'S FATHER WHEN HE WAS NO LONGER AN IMMEDIATE THREAT.

WHERE IS *HARRY?!* WHAT DID YOU *DO* TO MY *SON?*

WHY AM I DRESSED FOR A COSTUME PARTY? WHAT THE *HELL'S GOING ON?!*

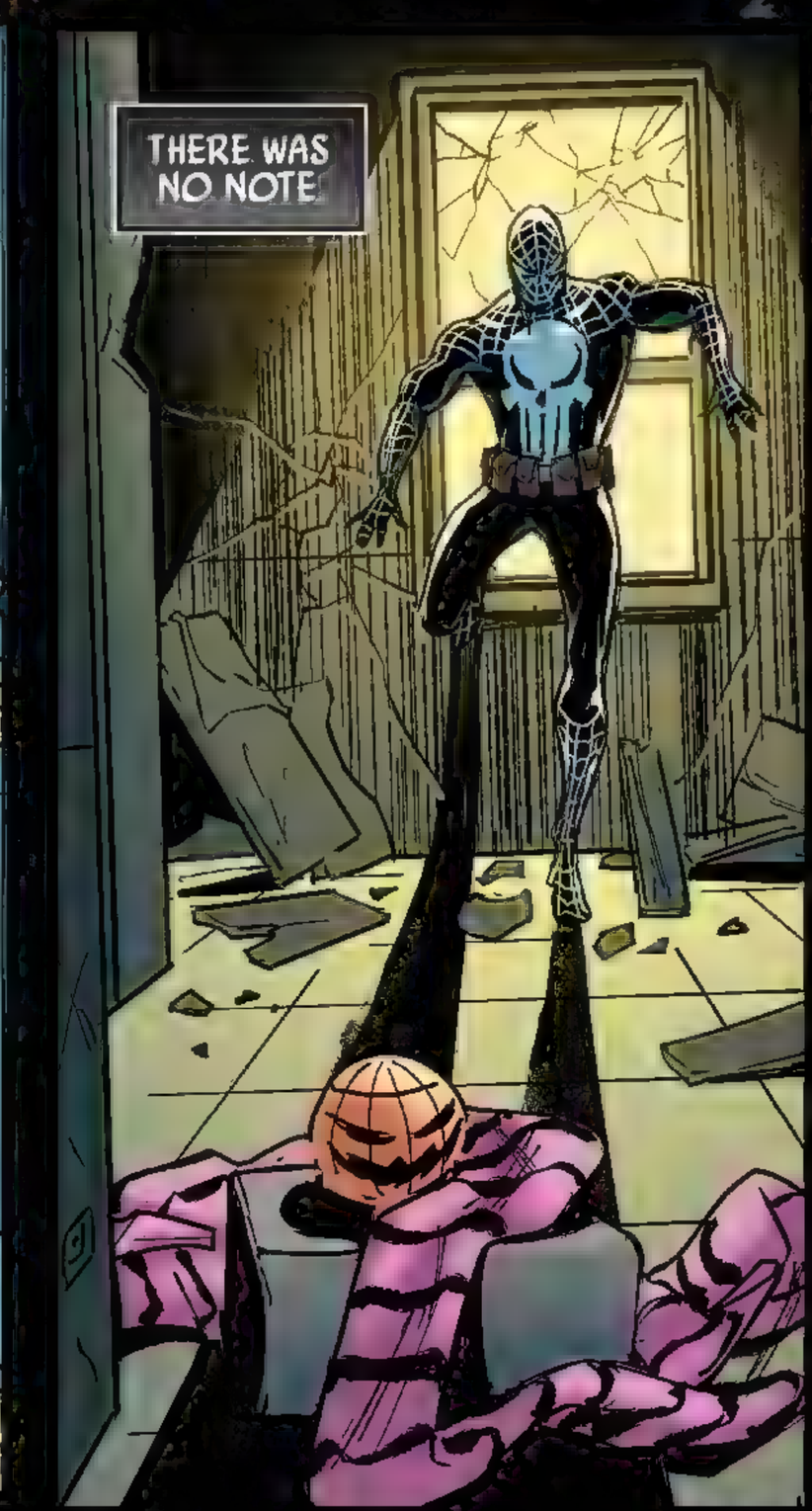
HIS AMNESIA, I HOPED, WOULD KEEP MY SECRET SAFE FROM ADVERSARIES AS WELL AS THOSE WHO CARED ABOUT ME.

IT WORKED-- FOR A WHILE.

MONTHS LATER, STILL RECOVERING FROM OUR LAST ENCOUNTER, AND UNDER THE STRESS OF OSCORP'S DECLINING VALUE, NORMAN OSBORN BEGAN TO UNRAVEL.

WHATEVER MENTAL DAM THAT HAD HELD BACK OSBORN'S MEMORIES OF HIS GOBLIN PAST CATASTROPHICALLY FAILED.

OSBORN GEARED UP TO SEEK HIS REVENGE.



MR. PARKER, IF YOU WISH GWEN STACY TO LIVE, YOU MUST DIE!

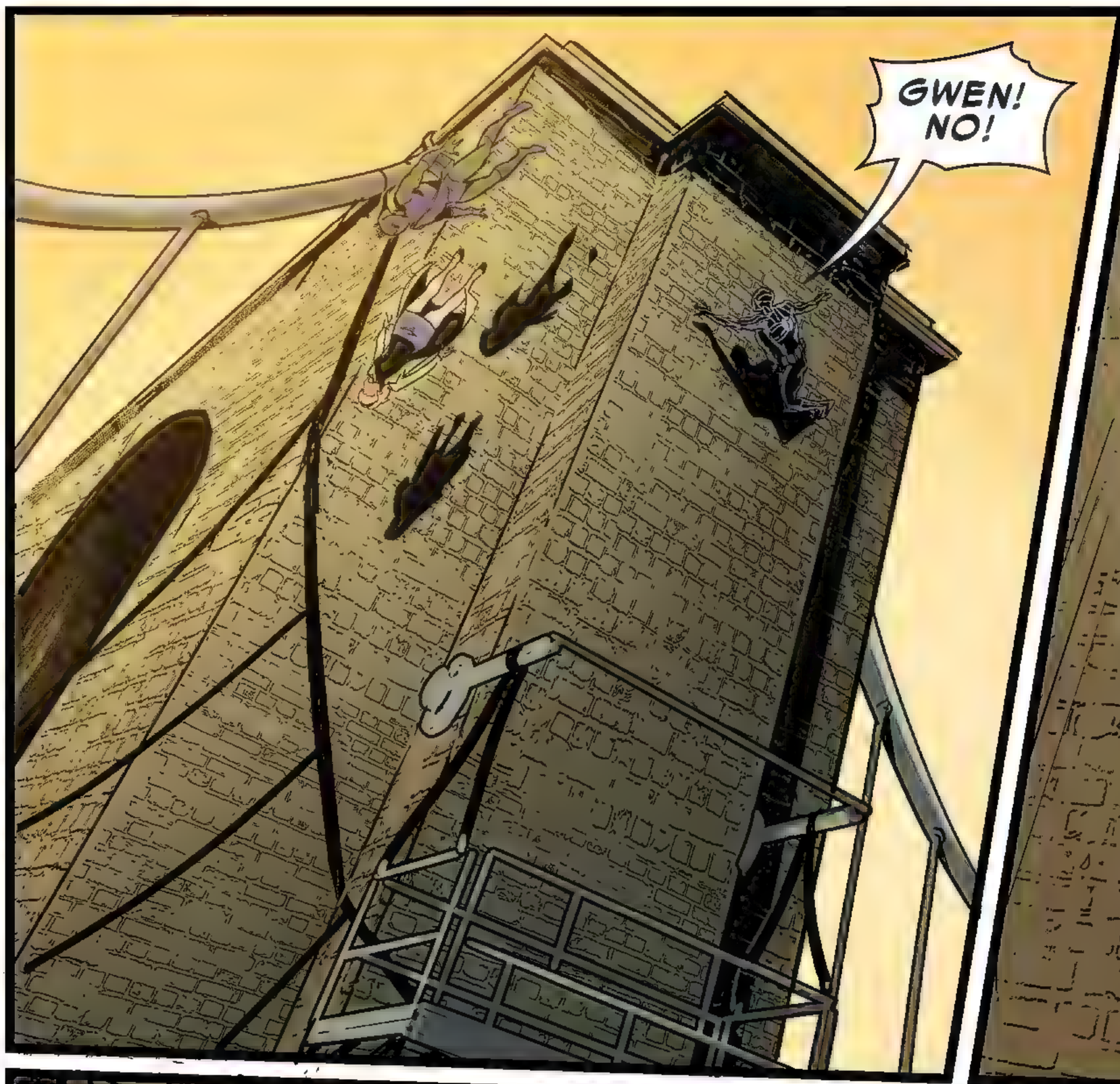
REMOVE YOUR WRIST-SHOOTERS AND JUMP OFF THIS TOWER WHILE MAKING NO ATTEMPT TO SAVE YOURSELF. DO THAT AND I'LL LET HER LIVE.
FROM THIS HEIGHT, THE FALL WILL KILL YOU. THE IMPACT WILL JUST BE ICING ON THE CAKE!
YOU HAVE A COUNT OF THREE...

UNLESS OSBORN'S THREAT ENDED THEN, AND FOREVER, NO ONE I CARED ABOUT WOULD EVER BE SAFE.
...TWO...
FIRING AN ARMOR-PIERCING ROUND FOLLOWED BY TWO TEFLON-JACKETED SLUGS...
BLAM

I HOPED MY COBBLED-TOGETHER TECH WOULD COUNTER THE BEST OSCORP RESEARCH COULD PRODUCE...
SHWIK

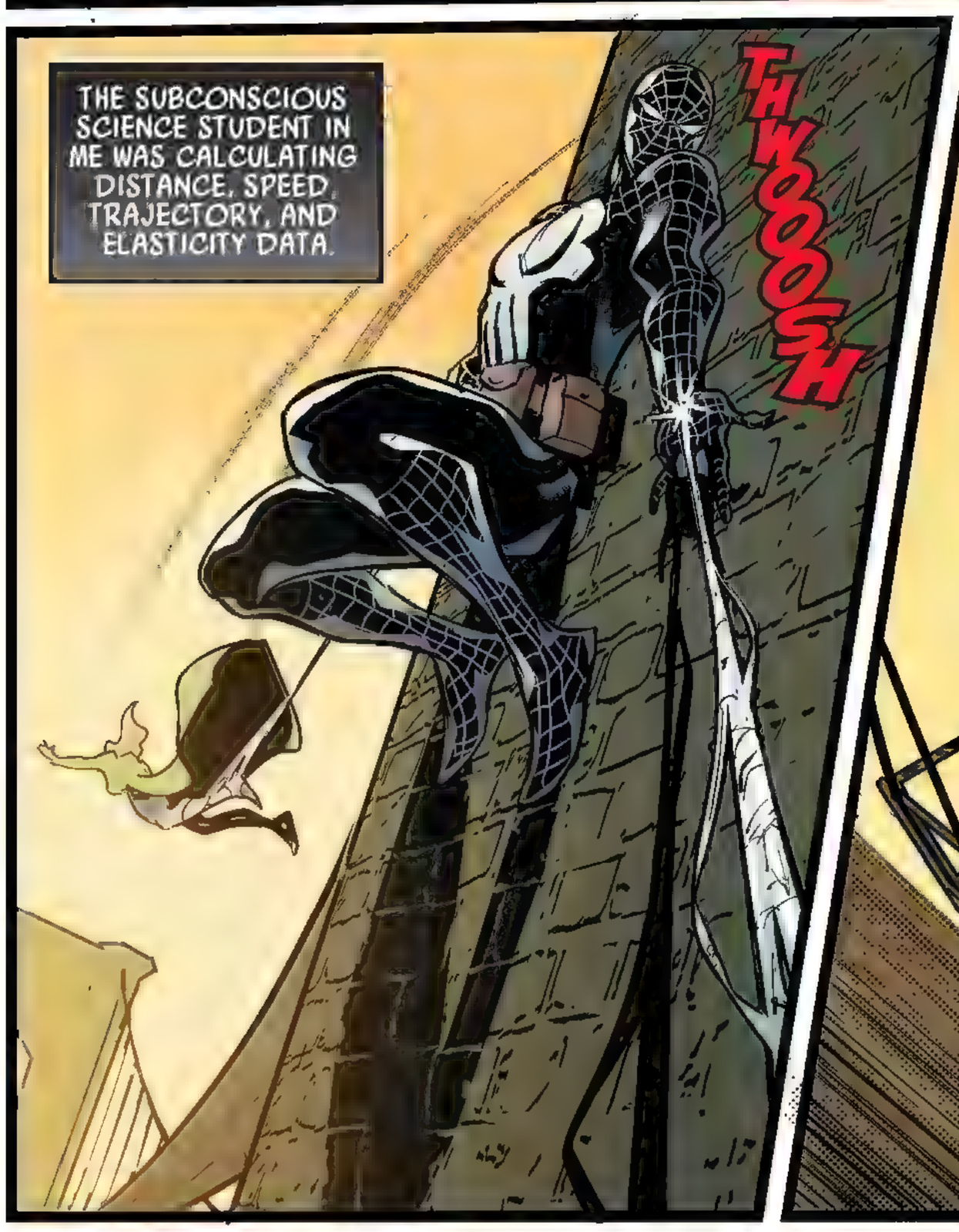
...AND THAT I COULD MAKE ALL THE ROUNDS STRIKE THE SAME SPOT.
SHWIK

NO...NO... COVERED...EVERY... CONTINGENC...
SHWIK


GWEN! NO!

OSBORN KNEW THAT BY THE TIME MY WEBBING COULD CATCH UP TO GWEN, STOP HER FALL, SHE'D ALREADY BE DEAD.

THWIP


THE SUBCONSCIOUS SCIENCE STUDENT IN ME WAS CALCULATING DISTANCE, SPEED, TRAJECTORY, AND ELASTICITY DATA.
THWOOSH

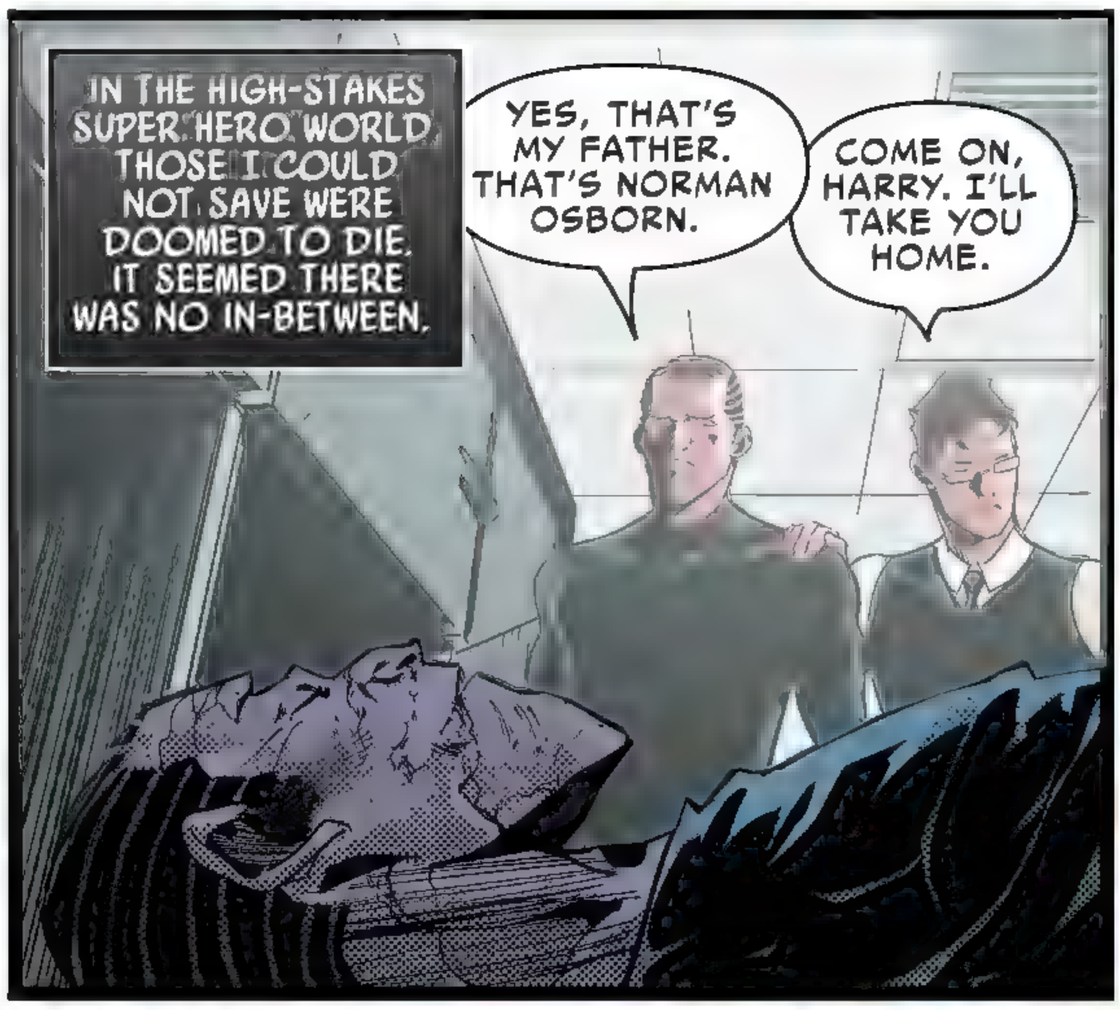
BUT MY CONSCIOUS MIND REACTED WITHOUT THINKING-- PURELY ON INSTINCT.
THWUMP

NO RESPIRATION! NO PULSE!

AHH...
PETER...?

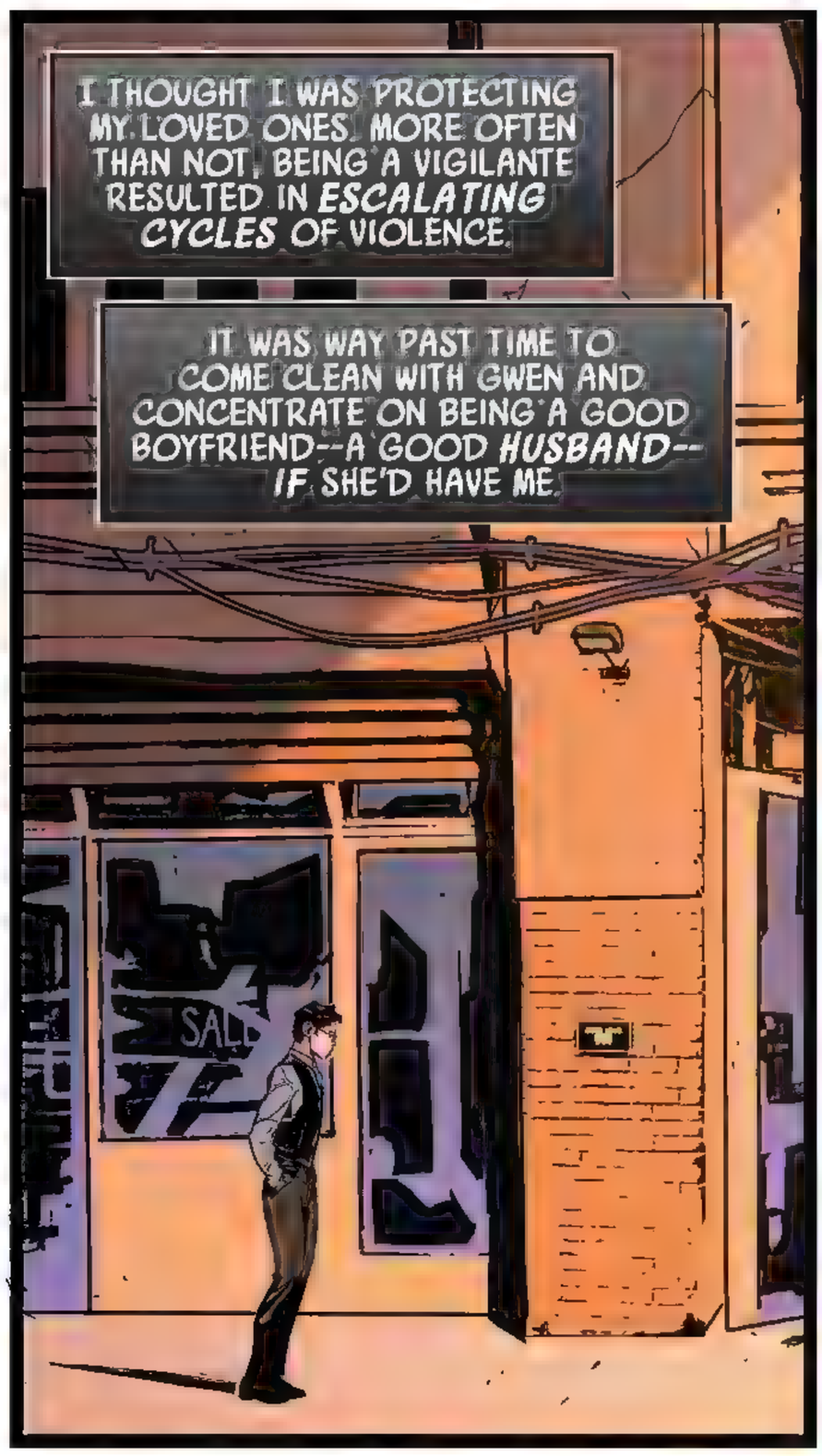
YES, IT'S PETER.
YOU... SAVED ME?

I'M AFRAID I ALMOST GOT YOU KILLED.

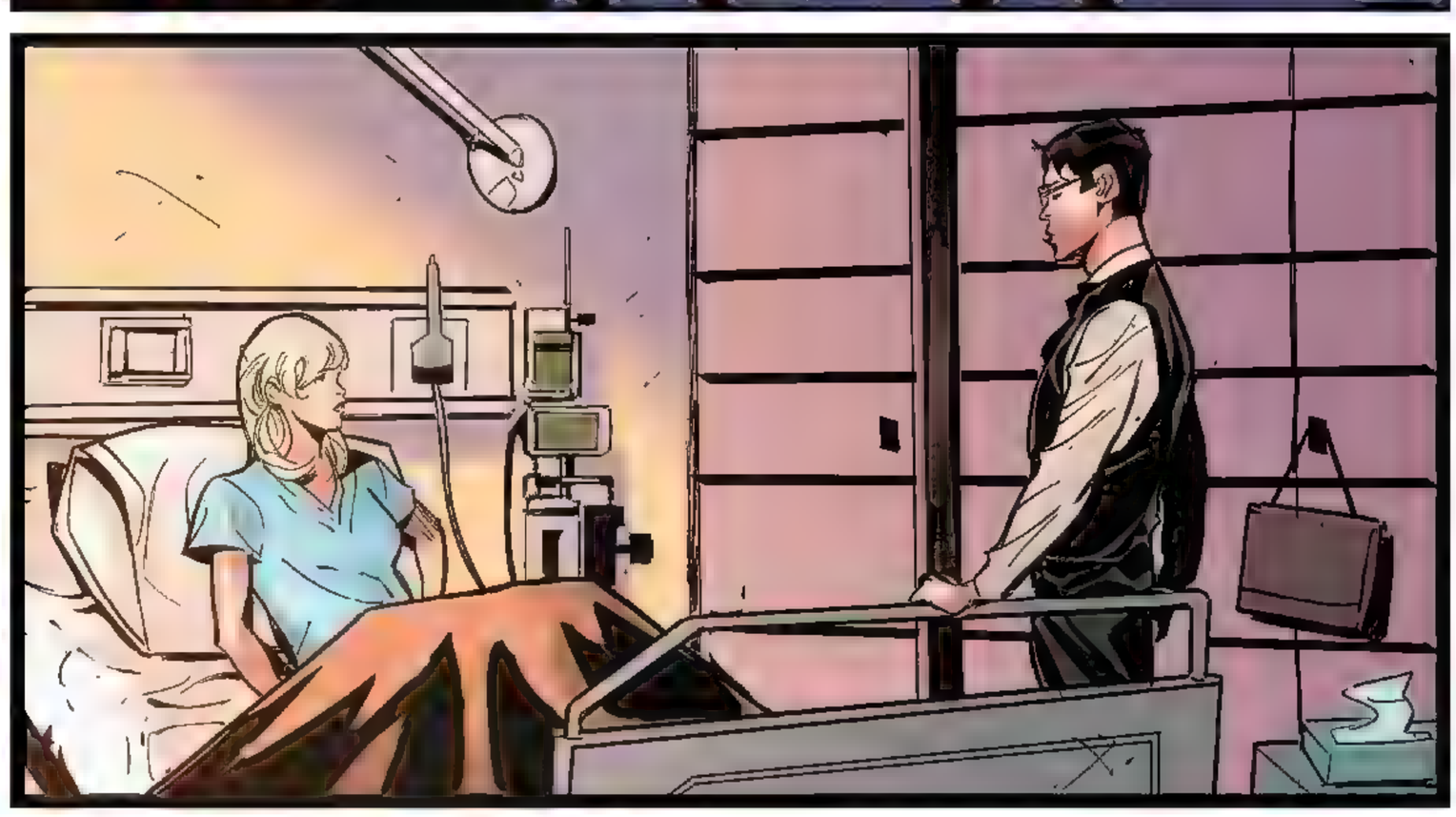

IN THE HIGH-STAKES SUPER-HERO WORLD, THOSE I COULD NOT SAVE WERE DOOMED TO DIE. IT SEEMED THERE WAS NO IN-BETWEEN.
YES, THAT'S MY FATHER. THAT'S NORMAN OSBORN.
COME ON, HARRY. I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.

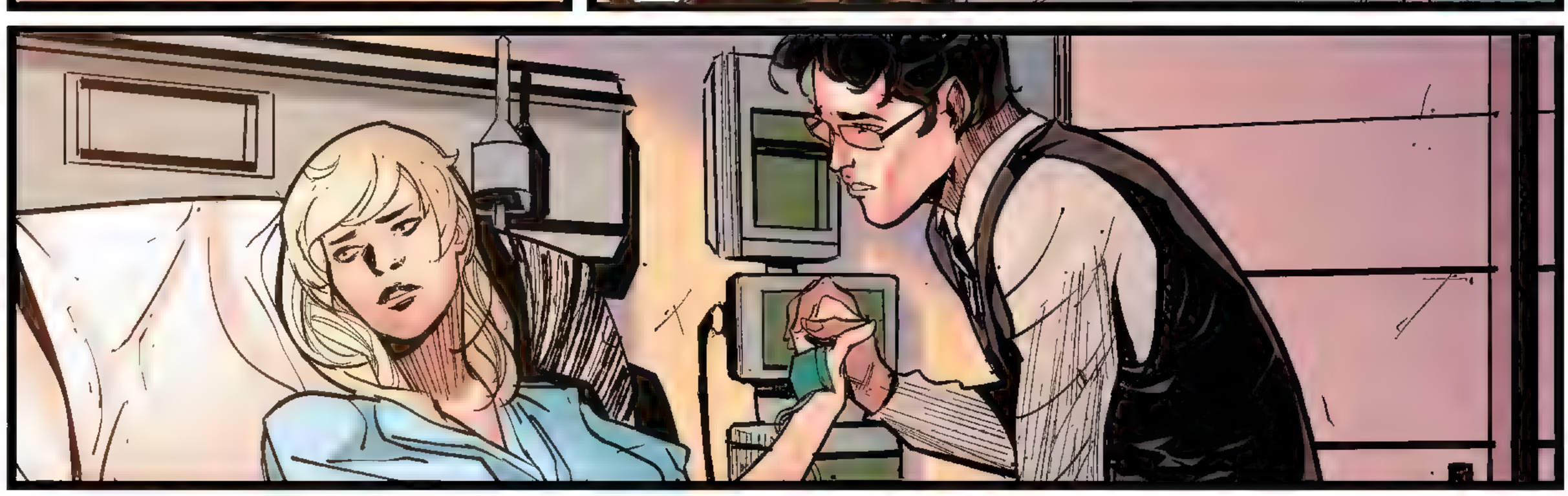
I WON'T ALLOW THIS TO STAND. THAT PUNISHER KILLED A BRILLIANT AND GREAT MAN.
LEAVE IT FOR THE AUTHORITIES, HARRY.
THOSE BUFFOONS HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CATCH THAT SPIDER-MONSTER SINCE HE FIRST APPEARED!

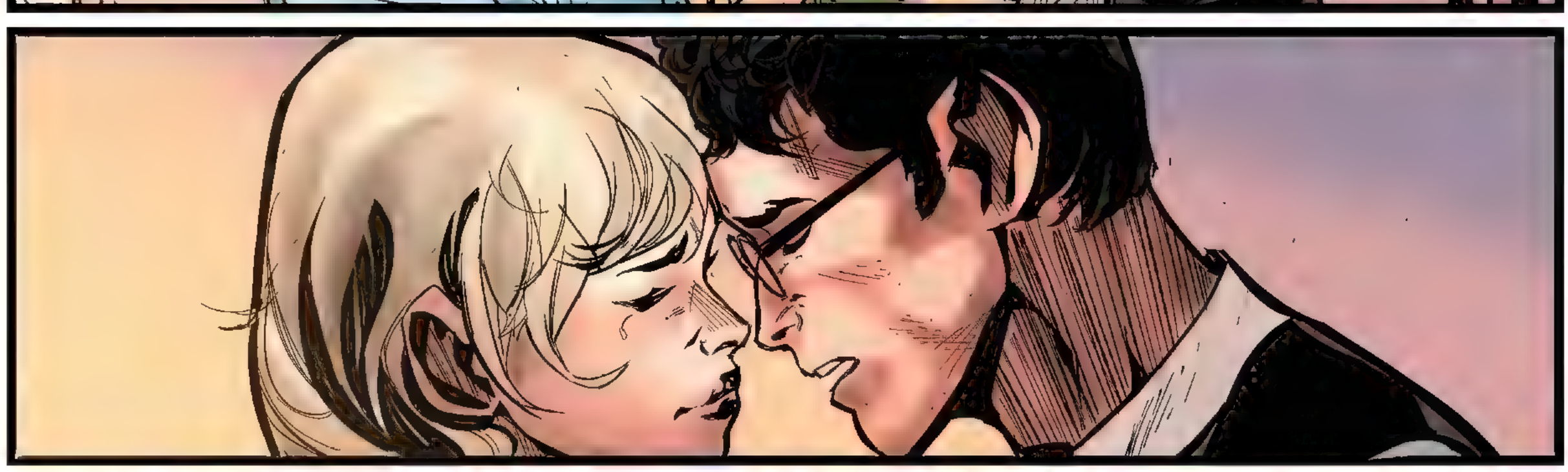
IF I DON'T DO IT, WHO'S GOING TO PUNISH THE PUNISHER?

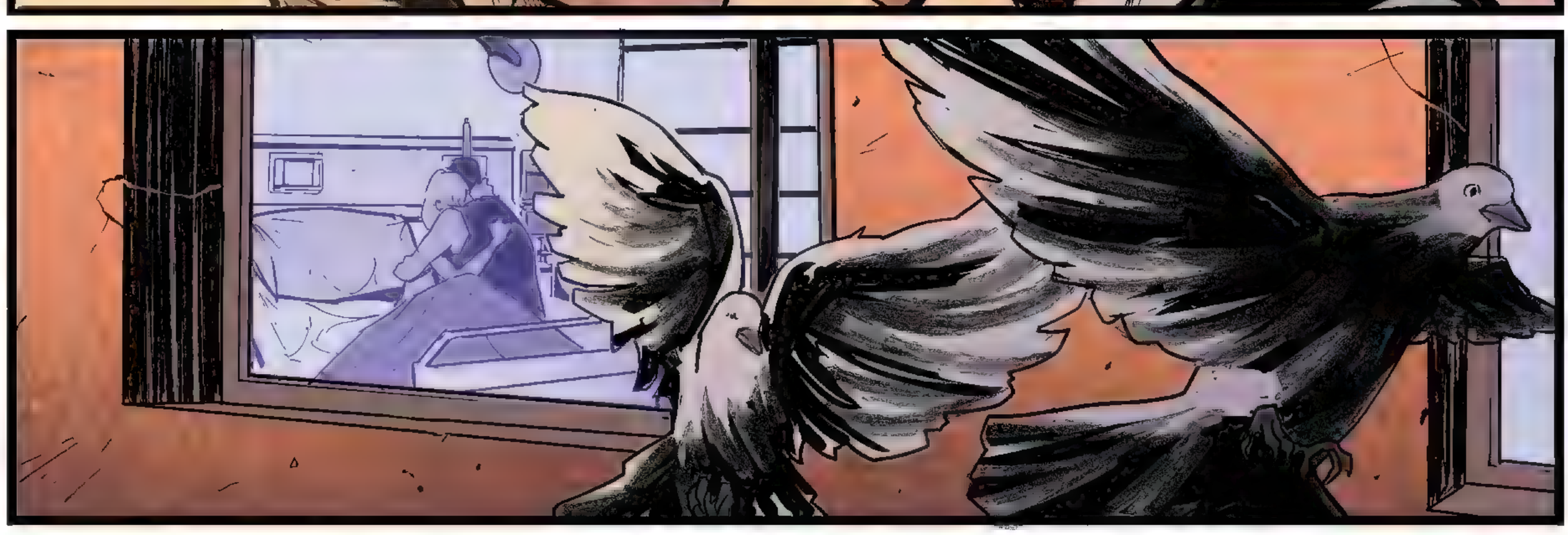

I THOUGHT I WAS PROTECTING MY LOVED ONES. MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, BEING A VIGILANTE RESULTED IN *ESCALATING CYCLES* OF VIOLENCE.
IT WAS WAY PAST TIME TO COME CLEAN WITH GWEN AND CONCENTRATE ON BEING A GOOD BOYFRIEND--A GOOD *HUSBAND*--*IF* SHE'D HAVE ME.

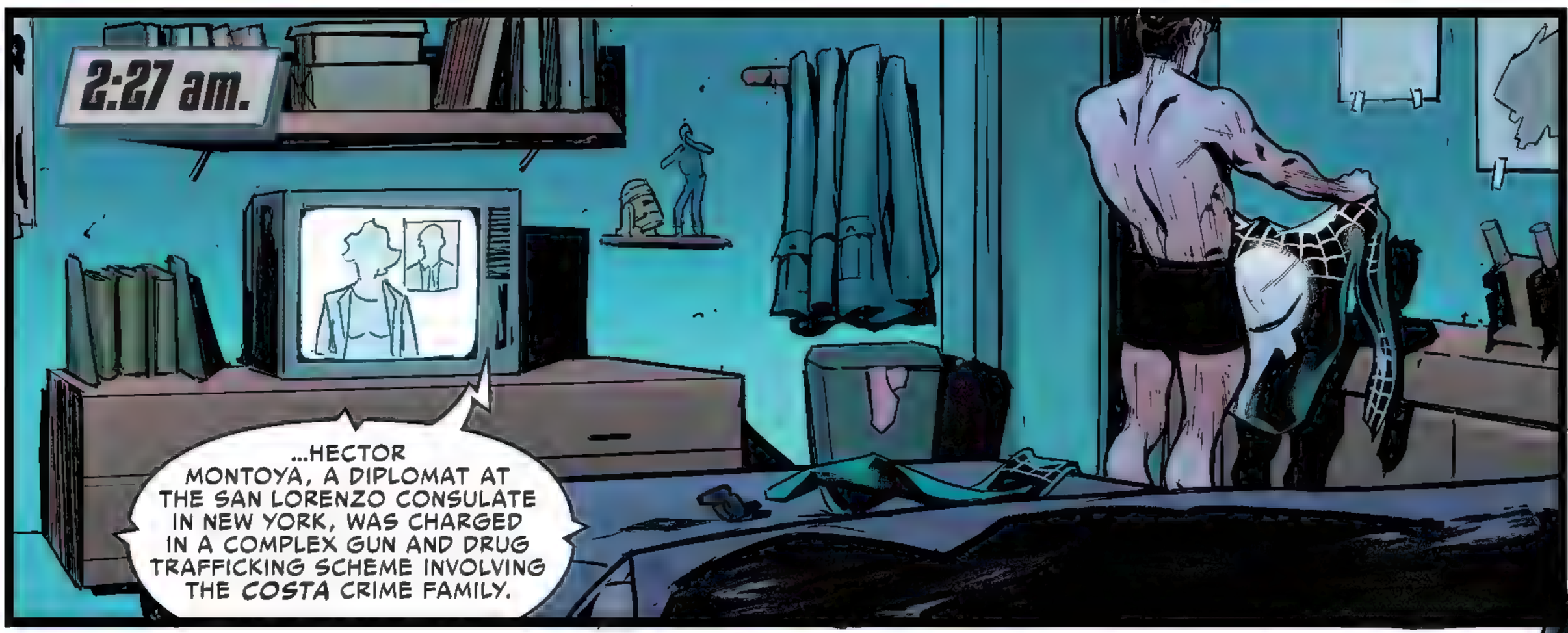
HOSPITAL

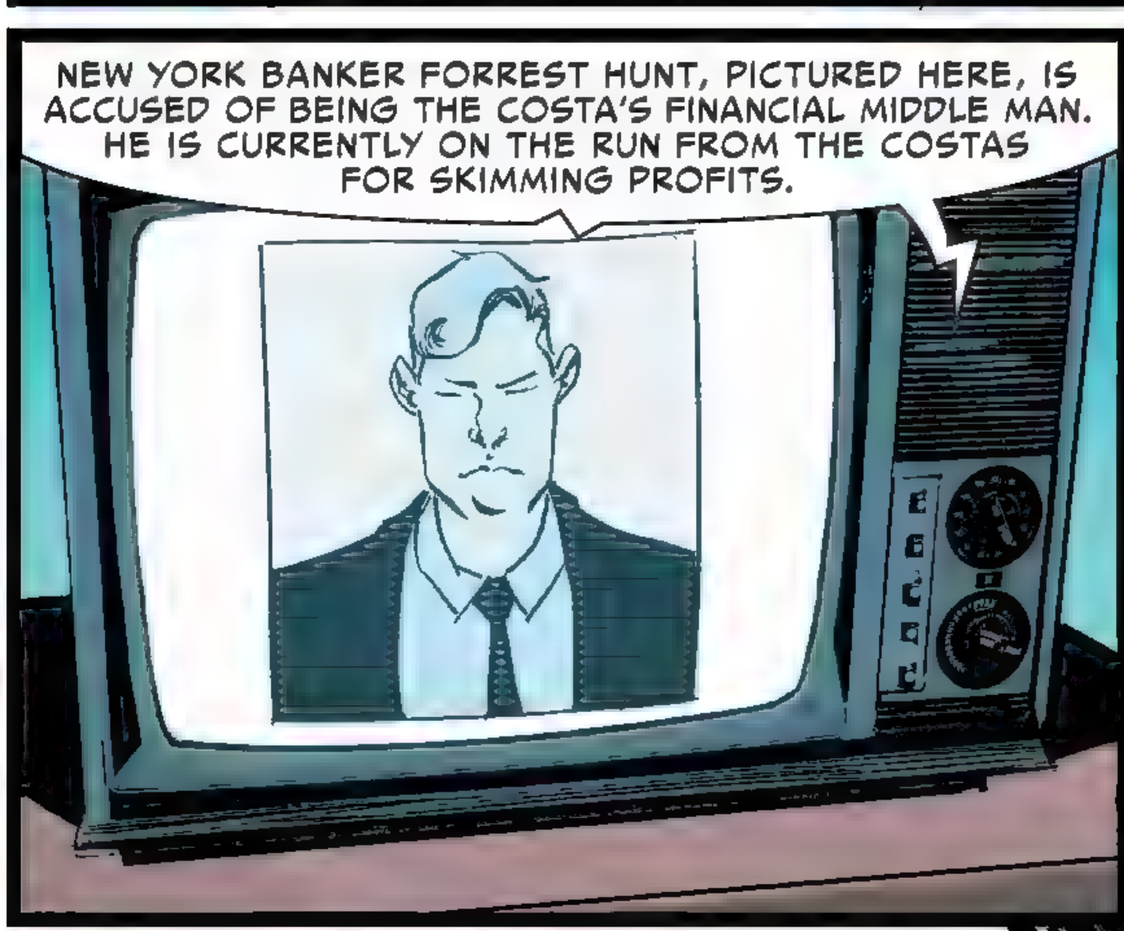


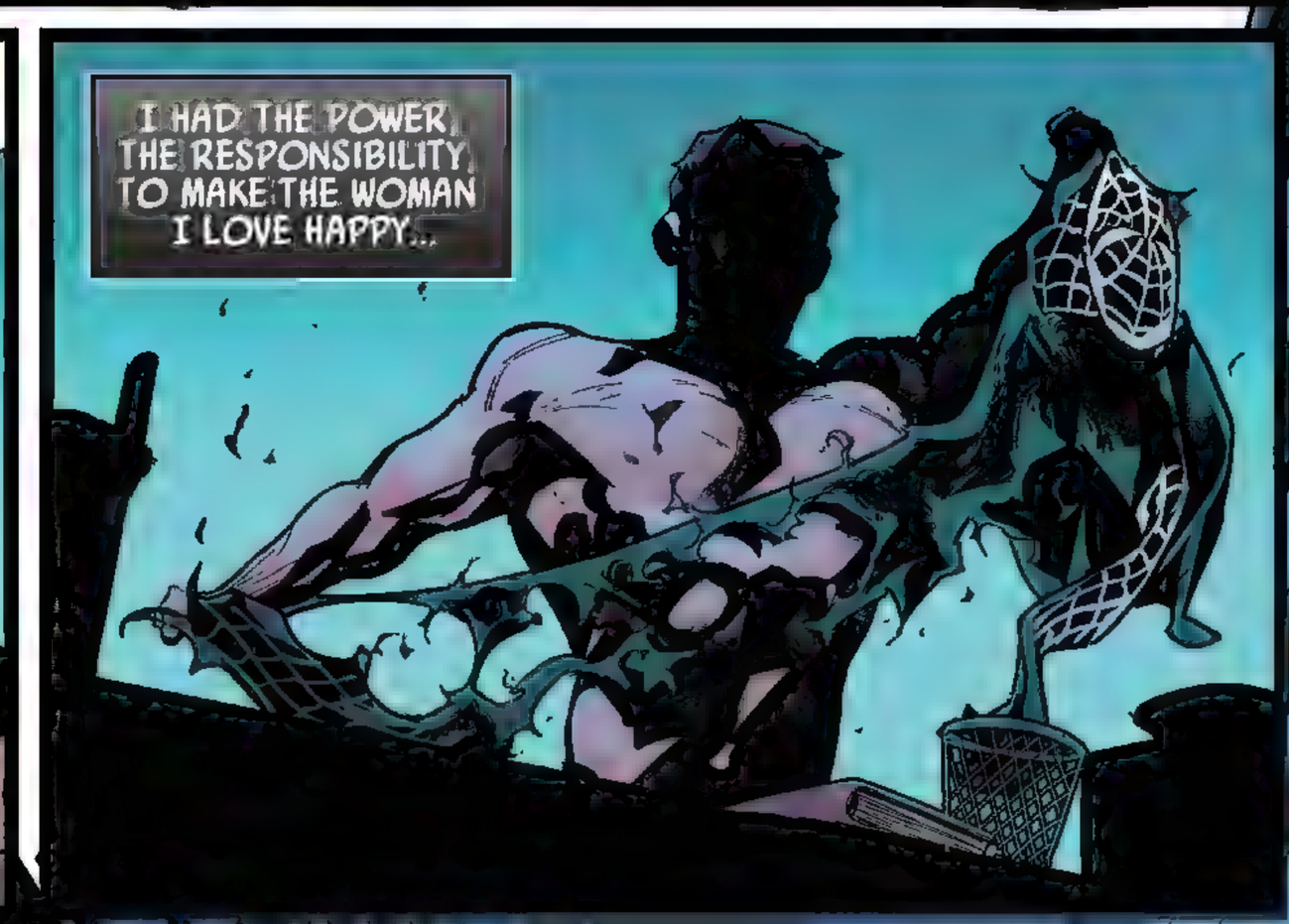




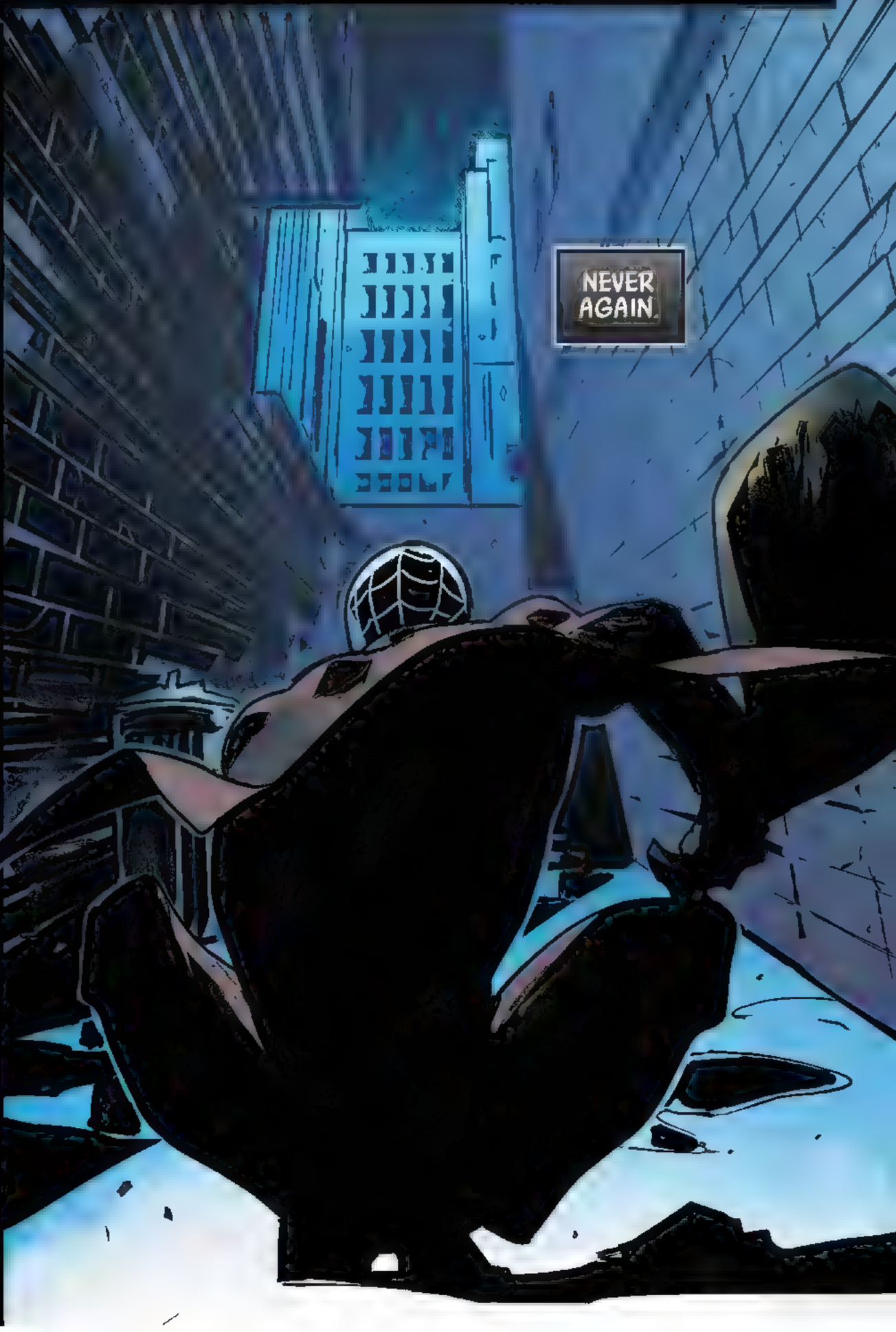



2:27 am.
...HECTOR MONTOYA, A DIPLOMAT AT THE SAN LORENZO CONSULATE IN NEW YORK, WAS CHARGED IN A COMPLEX GUN AND DRUG TRAFFICKING SCHEME INVOLVING THE COSTA CRIME FAMILY.

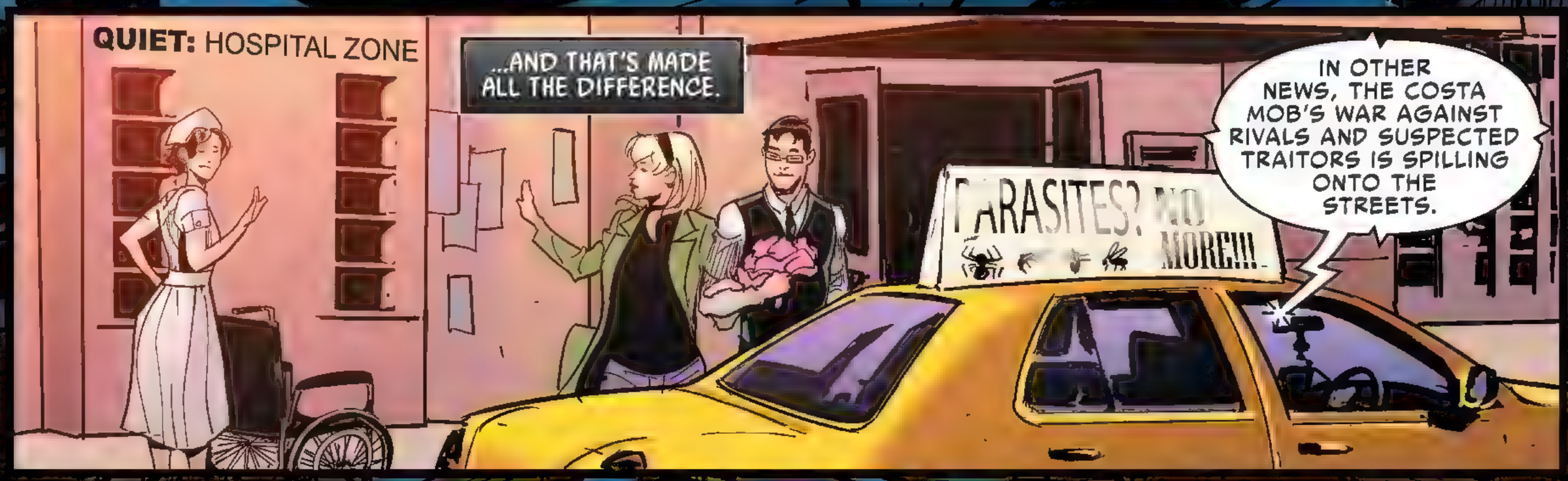

NEW YORK BANKER FORREST HUNT, PICTURED HERE, IS ACCUSED OF BEING THE COSTA'S FINANCIAL MIDDLE MAN. HE IS CURRENTLY ON THE RUN FROM THE COSTAS FOR SKIMMING PROFITS.


I HAD THE POWER, THE RESPONSIBILITY, TO MAKE THE WOMAN I LOVE HAPPY...

...AND ALMOST BOTCHED IT.


NEVER AGAIN.

I CHOSE A PATH OF LOVE, NOT VENGEANCE...



Central Park.
IN THE MOST RECENT AND BOLD ATTACK, COSTA GUNMEN ABDUCTED FORMER BANKER AND MONEY LAUNDERER FORREST HUNT.
HUNT WAS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN SKIMMING PROFITS FROM COSTA DRUG TRANSACTIONS. IN A RELATIVELY REMOTE SECTION OF CENTRAL PARK, HUNT WAS STRUNG FROM A TREE AND TORTURED.
THE CASTLE FAMILY--BOTH PARENTS, YOUNG SON, AND DAUGHTER--WERE GUNNED DOWN WHEN THEY STUMBLED ACROSS HUNT'S ABDUCTORS IN THE ACT.
IT IS BELIEVED ALL FOUR OF THE CASTLE FAMILY WERE KILLED...
...THOUGH THE BODY OF THE FATHER, FRANK CASTLE, A HIGHLY DECORATED MARINE VETERAN, HAS NOT YET BEEN RECOVERED.
WE CAN ONLY HOPE HE'S SOMEHOW PULLED THROUGH.
AND NOW FOR SPORTS. SO, LONNIE, HOW ARE THE METS FARING SO FAR IN TODAY'S...
THE END?

IN MEMORIAM

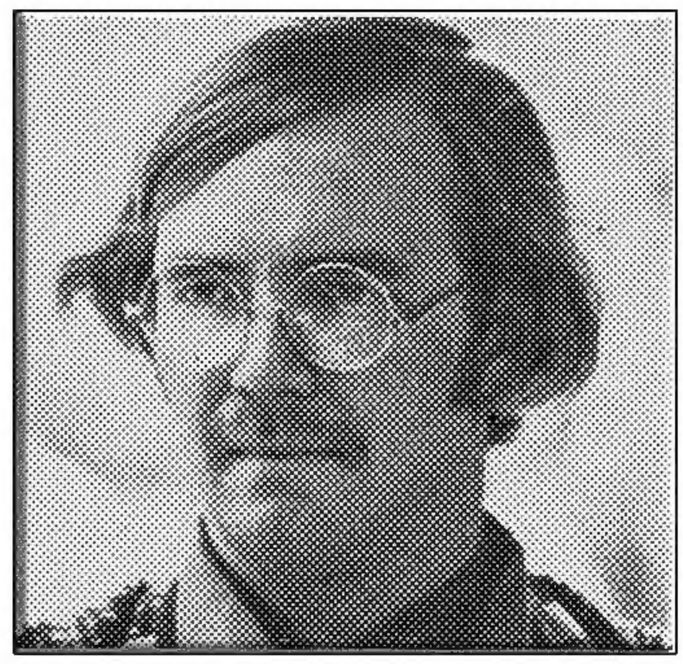
Gary Friedrich was best known as the co-creator of Ghost Rider, a demon-haunted, motorcycle-riding hero, and as a writer for a wide array of other Marvel characters. Some of his most notable stories, such as SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS, addressed the horror of war and challenged popular norms of the time.

Gary found his greatest successes in stories exploring the supernatural. Along with writing Ghost Rider's first appearances, he also co-created the character Daimon Hellstrom, the Son of Satan. He would later masterfully adapt Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, bringing the horror icon into the Marvel Universe.

Former Marvel Editor-in-Chief Roy Thomas was Gary's best friend from an early age, even taking part in the same rock 'n' roll band. Later, Roy brought Gary into Marvel and helped get him his first assignments.

"We enjoyed being young and alive in New York in what we knew was a golden era under Stan Lee," Roy said. "Gary was a great guy and a good friend, and I'll never be able to fill the void he's left in my life. I'm glad he's at peace...and that he was blessed in his 30-year marriage to Jean."

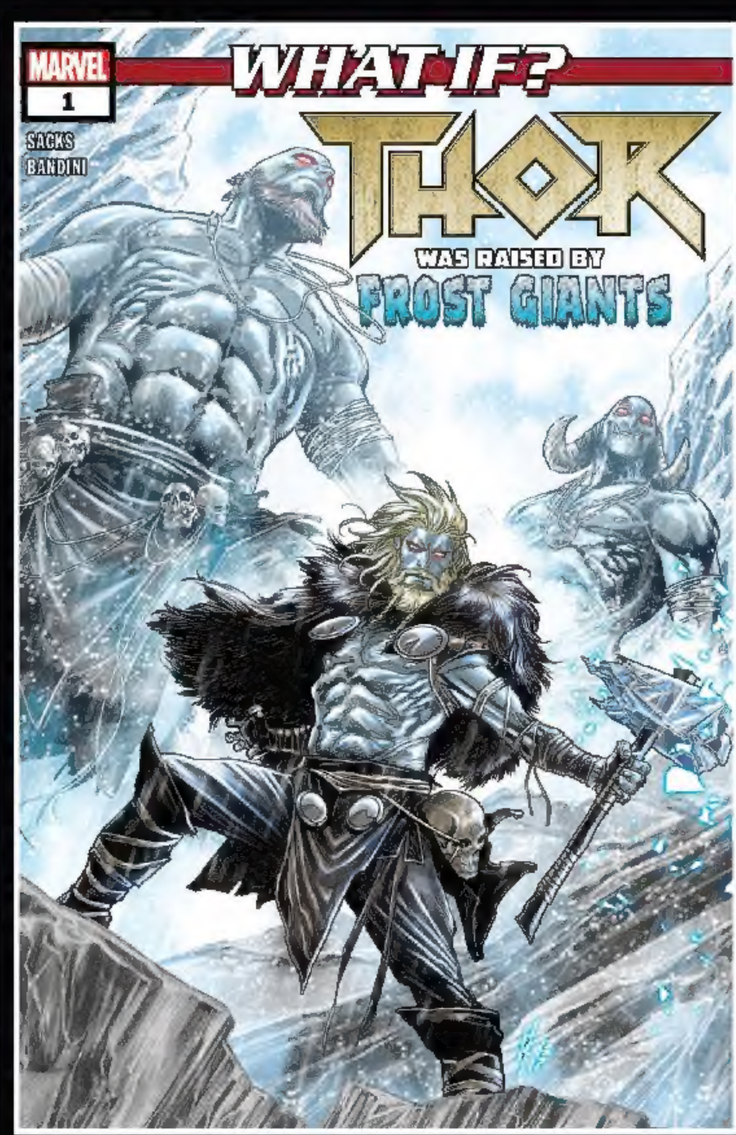
Gary's legacy of powerful writing and innovative ideas will continue to inspire generations of Marvel fans and writers.

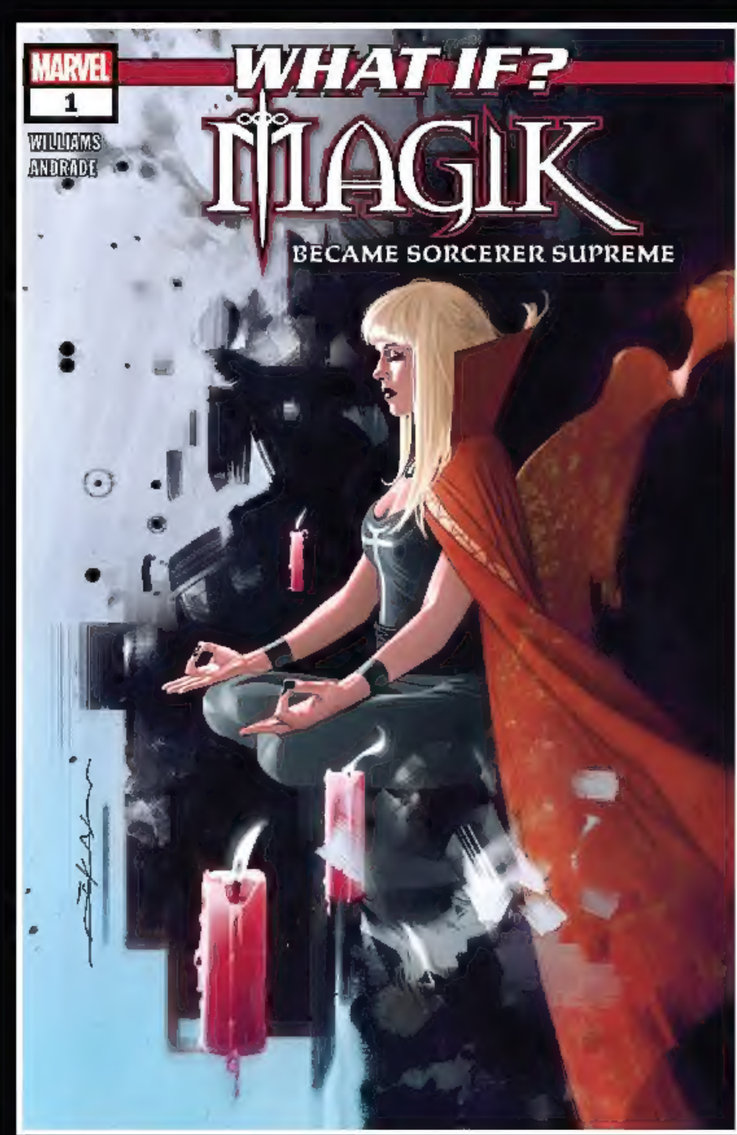


GARY FRIEDRICH

1943-2018

WORLDS OF POSSIBILITIES AWAIT YOU IN THESE OTHER WAY-OUT WHAT IF? STORIES!





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